



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

23 June 2021

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2021 - 0294

FOR: ALL DIRECTORS OF CENTRAL OFFICE BUREAUS AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, BARMM MINISTER OF HEALTH; CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS AND SANITARIA, AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: Non-inclusion of Lapatinib in the Philippine National Formulary (PNF)

By virtue of Republic Act 11223, otherwise known as the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act, health technology assessment (HTA) shall be institutionalized as a fair and transparent priority-setting mechanism to provide financing and coverage recommendations on health technologies to be funded by the Department of Health and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.

This has reference to the application to include **Lapatinib in the treatment of HER2-positive breast cancer patients** in the Philippine National Formulary (PNF). Please be informed that the Secretary of Health approved the final recommendation of the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC), to wit:

- **Non-inclusion** of lapatinib in the PNF due to the following:
 - No statistical difference between lapatinib and trastuzumab in overall survival; and
 - Increased risk of adverse events (diarrhea, dermatologic toxicity, hepatic toxicity, and potentially, vomiting, neutropenia, neutropenic fever, and congestive heart failure) compared to the control treatments.

Kindly disseminate to all concerned officials in your areas of responsibility, so they may be appropriately guided in their procurement activities. All are enjoined to ensure rational procurement, distribution, and use of health technologies in all government and private facilities.

Your full cooperation in this endeavor is expected and highly appreciated.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

GERARDO V. BAYUGO, MD, MPH, CESO I
Undersecretary of Health
Health Regulation Team

